

Remarks/Arguments

The Applicants acknowledge and thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-8 are allowable, and that claims 11-14 and 16-19 contain allowable subject matter.

The applicant would also like to thank the Examiner for immediately supplying a copy of the cited reference in response to the telephone conversation of December 08, 2004.

Claim Summary

By this Amendment, claims 1-3, and 11 are cancelled. Claims 9 and 12-14 are amended.

Claims 4 - 10 and 12 - 19 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3, 9-10, and 15 were rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (NN76112255).

Claims 1 and 3 are cancelled. The allowable subject matter of claim 11 has been incorporated into independent claim 9. Therefore, claim 9 is allowable, and claims 10 and 15, which directly depend on claim 9 now define over the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 2 was rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (NN76112255) in view of Kawamura et al. (US 6,641,744).

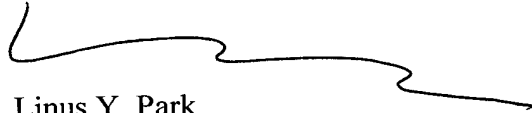
Claim 2 is cancelled, thereby mooted this rejection.

Conclusion

No other issues remain, reconsideration and favorable action upon claims 4 - 10 and 12 - 19 present in the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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